

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-14 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 070905Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11168

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: WHO WANTS TO "DEVELOP PRODUCTION?"

REF: HONG KONG 8773

1. THE CURIOUS REFERENCE IN CHOU EN-LAI'S POLITICAL REPORT TO LIN PIAO AS HAVING WANTED TO "DEVELOP PRODUCTION" (REFTEL) HAS BEEN EXPANDED UPON. ONE "LI CHENG," WRITING IN PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD), HAS EXPLAINED THAT LIN'S EMPHASIS ON PRODUCTION WAS ACTUALLY A "HOAX" DESIGNED TO "DIVERT THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION" FROM THE LIN GROUP'S "COUP D'ETAT PLOTTING." (NCNA DOMESTIC SERVICE, OCTOBER 28). THE AUTHOR IMPLIES THAT SINCE LIN ONLY FALSELY PUSHED PRODUCTION, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO CREDIT HIM WITH GENUINE CONCERN FOR CHINA'S ECONOMY.

2. IN FACT, THE PD AUTHOR ASSERTS THAT EMPHASIS ON POLITICS IS "EXACTLY" THE WAY TO DEVELOP THE ECONOMY, BECAUSE A CORRECT
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POLITICAL OUTLOOK "ALWAYS GIVES RISE TO AN UPSURGE IN PRODUCTION."

THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IS WEAKENED CONSIDERABLY BY THE AUTHOR'S CITING THE ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS "GREAT LEAP FORWARD" AND ALSO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AS EVIDENCE. MANY CHINESE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ARGUE, AS LIN ALLEGEDLY DID, THAT WHAT CHINA TRULY NEEDS IS AN END TO "CLASS STRUGGLE" AND CONCENTRATION INSTEAD ON "THE MAJOR TASK--TO DEVELOP PRODUCTION."

3. APPARENTLY RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH SENTIMENT IS WIDESPREAD, THE AUTHOR THEN LAYS ASIDE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT LIN'S URGINGS WERE SINCERE AND PROCEEDS TO ATTACK DIRECTLY ANY THOUGHTS OF GIVING PRIMACY TO ECONOMICS, CALLING THEM "THE MAIN THEORY PEDDLED BY REVISIONISTS." HE ENDS BY AGAIN FALLING BACK ON A LIMP DEFENSE OF CHINA'S "FAIRLY FAST" ECONOMIC PROGRESS TOWARD A STAGE OF "INITIAL PROSPERITY."

4. IN SUM, THE ARTICLE ATTEMPTS AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF HOW LIN COULD BE SCORED (AS HE WAS EARLIER IN THE "571" DOCUMENTS) FOR PUSHING CHINA TO "DEVELOP PRODUCTION." BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT RAISES A NEW QUESTION: WHAT HAS PROMPTED THE REGIME TO ATTACH LIN'S BLACKENED NAME AGAIN TO PRESUMABLY POPULAR VIEWPOINT? IT WOULD SEEM THAT UNNAMED PERSONS CURRENTLY PUSHING TO "DEVELOP PRODUCTION"--NOT THE DEAD LIN PIAO--ARE PD'S REAL TARGETS.
OSBORN

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